

AUGUST 2000

Inside Seven

Caltrans DISTRICT 7 EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

GRAY DAVIS, GOVERNOR

MARIA CONTRERAS-SWEET, SECRETARY OF BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

JEFF MORALES, DIRECTOR

CALTRANS STUDENT ASSISTANTS PAVE THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE

Contributing Writer Suzie Torres,
Special Programs Manager

Caltrans District 7 is fortunate to be part of a special program whereby the District contracts with the Community College Foundation (CCF) Student Assistant Services Program. The program ensures that students seeking employment opportunities in their field of study have an opportunity to develop their skills and talents. Caltrans provides these students with part-time employment to enhance their career development. The Caltrans Student Assistants are considered employees of the CCF and are assigned to work at a Caltrans worksite. The program is worthwhile because not only are students provided with part-time employment and vocational development, at the same time the students offer Caltrans an important recruitment tool and a valuable student workforce as they pave the way for the future of Caltrans. The program:

- Provides an opportunity for the department to preview potential future employees.
- Provides Student Assistants part-time employment related to their field of study.
- Provides career direction to students.
- Assists the Department in implementing the Equal Employment Opportunity Program.

The program benefits students by:

- Assisting in financing their education.
- Providing important work experience in a particular field of study.
- Giving interviewing and basic work skills.



Celebrating Caltrans Student Assistants, from left to right: Robert Dennis, Division Chief, Resource Management; Tim Romine, Student Assistant, Project Development Branch C; Suzie Torres, Manager, Special Programs; Erika Gallo, Student Assistant, Media Relations/Public Affairs; and Robert W. Sassaman, District Director.

- Serving as a valuable résumé entry.
- Providing stimulus for further study and academic achievement.
- Presenting an opportunity for future employment.

Student Assistants must carry six semester or nine quarter units and maintain a 2.0 grade point average to remain in the program. Some jobs may require additional units. Students are required to provide transcripts and proof of enrollment at the time of hire. They cannot work more than 1,500 hours within the 365-day period following the initial date of employment. Generally, they work half-time during the school years and full-time during breaks.

Currently, Caltrans District 7 has

approximately 80 students in the program. And many of them eventually transition into full-time positions. Robert W. Sassaman, District Director, said, "I am extremely proud of our Student Assistant Program. We are indeed fortunate to have such a diverse body of Student Assistants with a multitude of skills. And it is rewarding to see them grow scholastically and professionally right out of high school and college into full-time Caltrans careers."

Robert Dennis, District Division Chief, Resource Management, feels that the Student Assistant Program is one of the better things District 7 does in terms of recruitment and community participation. He said, "We are able to provide

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THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

The good news this month is that Governor Gray Davis' budget has some great things in store for Caltrans District 7, particularly for a new District Office Building (DOB). The future DOB, to be constructed across the street at our existing parking lot, is included in the budget for preliminary conceptual design during this fiscal year; then on to a design/build stage. Hopefully we will occupy a brand new facility in three years. By doing a design/build, we are able to cut one year off the normal process.

Presently, some staff have already relocated to other District locations in preparation for our new facility, such as the Metropolitan Water District building. We are looking for additional space there and also at other facilities. As a reminder to employees being relocated, it is a good idea to look around you and be mindful of what the professional dress code is at other facilities where Caltrans is leasing space and working. Remember: the way one dresses sends a powerful message both personally and professionally. So, be aware at the buildings that we share. Be proud of your organization and do your organization proud!

Also budgeted are repairs of our existing office building. We are anticipating \$1 million per year for the next three years. Those repairs, currently being prioritized between Caltrans, the Department of General Services and the Department of Finance, should be under way within the next few months. Some repairs are major requiring contractors; and some will be accomplished by District staff, all in an effort to make our working environment functional, safe and comfortable until we move to our new office building.

In addition, as part of the Governor's budget, funds were made available for needed congestion relief projects for the Los Angeles area. These projects have been assigned to project managers for workplans to be developed. Project Development team meetings are being held with the emphasis on ways to accel-

erate delivery of these projects to our customers. It is not business as usual anymore — we are looking for ways to get these projects delivered even faster. And we are looking for ideas from everyone. Please bring your ideas to your Project Development team meetings or to your supervisor. There are no bad ideas!

Many thanks to William Reagan, Office Chief, Design Branch A and our expert Los Angeles freeway historian Chuck O'Connell, retired Division Chief, Operations, who is still working part-time, for their excellent presentation last month on a special report by KCBS Channel 2 regarding the history of Los Angeles freeways. Chuck shared his many years of expertise in his message about the dedicated team of engineers from different agencies in the Los Angeles area called the Metropolitan Transportation Engineering Board (MTEB) who, in the 1950's, developed a comprehensive, forward-looking transportation plan for Los Angeles. Bill added his valuable expertise on transportation planning.

Showing a detailed map created by the MTEB, Chuck explained the visionary plan that was submitted to the Legislature in 1958 and adopted in 1959. The 1958 map, a Master Plan of Freeways and Expressways, detailed potential new Los Angeles area freeways, such as the Reseda Freeway, Decker Freeway, and Laurel Canyon Freeway in the San Fernando Valley; the Beverly Hills Freeway, Slauson Freeway, Western Avenue Freeway and Industrial Freeway in Los Angeles; the Malibu-Whitnall Freeway near the coast; the Highway 126 Freeway from Route 14 in Santa Clarita to Ventura; and the Pacific Coast Freeway and Huntington Beach Freeway in Orange County.

Unfortunately environmental issues and the "not in my back yard" mentality developed in the late 1960's-70's brought about political pressure to reduce the transportation plan significantly. Part of that reduction was also due to lack of funding. Also, some felt transit could solve some of the transportation problems. Unfortunately, that was not the case. Had that plan gone forward it probably would have satisfied our transportation needs, particularly for the automobile and goods movement, compared to what is needed today. Thanks to Chuck O'Connell and William Reagan for their

fine report and professional representation of Caltrans on the history of the Los Angeles freeway system.

On behalf of the entire District, I would like to welcome new employees who have come on board and are now a part of our Caltrans District 7 "family." It is important to work with our new employees, as well as our Student Assistants, to assist them in gaining a good understanding of what their duties are. We must provide training and mentoring — not an assigned mentor, but help and guidance from supervisors, co-workers and anyone with the experience to help them learn and grow. Mentoring comes from a lot of sources and is something that is undefined.

As most of us look back and remember our own careers, we may recall people who were our mentors, although not defined as mentors, but who took the initiative to help us grow. I would like to facilitate mentoring in our programs at Caltrans the same way. Let us help to foster a feeling of belonging. We can promote that feeling by introducing new employees to others in our organization and also getting to know them personally to make them feel they are part of the Caltrans "family." Supervisors should let them know their work is appreciated, as well as offer constructive criticism when necessary. Once again, a big WELCOME to our new employees. We're glad you're here!

I would also like to take this time to offer thanks and appreciation to our talented pool of Student Assistants for their valuable contributions to District 7. Year in and year out, they have proven themselves to be studious, resourceful and dedicated. They are the future of Caltrans, and I am proud that District 7 takes part in a program to give students the important career opportunities available here. I want to thank those career Caltrans employees who have taken the extra time over the years to act as role models for our Student Assistants. The mentoring by our dedicated employees, coupled with the enthusiasm of our Student Assistants, is a winning combination for the future of Caltrans! •

ROBERT W. SASSAMAN
District Director



Isobel Matthews (photo taken in 1996) will be missed by all.

Caltrans Mourns Isobel Matthews

“Do not grieve for me when I leave this world for I have lived a full life,” were some of the last words penned by long-time Caltrans employee Isobel Matthews (formerly Ono) before she passed away June 18 after a lengthy but courageous battle with cancer.

Matthews retired in December, 1997 after a 38-year career where she worked in Design, Right of Way, Traffic, and before her retirement in Contracts and Oversight. Always busy at work and involved in clubs and activities, Matthews was a member of Toastmasters, she served as secretary of the Quarter Century Club and was past-president of the Asian Pacific Islander Committee. Glenn Matthews, Caltrans Transportation Engineer, said of his wife, “I was told by one of our friends that to know Isobel was to like her because she was very easy to like. As her husband, I can say that to be married to her was having a great love for her because she was easy to love.”

Long time friend and co-worker, Elaine Hayashi, said that Isobel fought a brave battle until the very end. She said, “Isobel was a courageously strong person who never complained about her illness. She

never gave up and never said ‘why me.’ Isobel always saw the goodness in everyone she met. Those who got to know her well realized what a “rascal” she was. She was a dear friend.” Louise Kaainoa, co-worker and friend said, “Isobel’s quiet beauty belied great inner strength and character, as well as an adventurous spirit. She had a great love of the outdoors, most of all snow skiing. She wouldn’t let a simple case of the flu stop her from skiing with friends. Isobel remained courageous and positive through the many battles she faced with numerous illnesses.” And Sylvia Kirchoff, also a friend and co-worker added that what she remembers most was Isobel’s graciousness and concern for others, even though she was fighting the battle of her life. Sylvia said, “Her compassion, generosity and good nature combined with occasional mischievousness impacted my life and I will miss her friendship tremendously.”

Isobel is survived by her husband Glenn

Matthews; brother Harry Fujiwara (former wrestler known as “Mr. Fuji”); daughter Kelly; two granddaughters; a grandson; two stepsons; and two step-granddaughters. Those who wish to honor Isobel may make a contribution to a special Heritage/Hope Plaque in her memory at the City of Hope, P. O. Box 555117, Los Angeles, CA 90055-9966.

Caltrans sends its sincerest condolences to the Matthews and Ono families. •

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Never let the fear of striking out get in your way.”

- Babe Ruth



Graduate students from the University of Southern California (USC) studying international public policy and management were treated to a visit to District 7’s Transportation Management Center (TMC) in July. Led by Professor James Moore, the students, mostly from Indonesia, plan to pursue careers in the public sector. Explaining the various functions of the TMC to the students are: Ossama Asaad, Senior Transportation Engineer, second from left; David Lau, Transportation Engineer, left; and Niecey Mercado, Communications Supervisor, California Highway Patrol/Freeway Service Patrol (FSP), seated. The three experts offered valuable information on loop detectors, changeable message signs, incident response, FSP functions, freeway vision map and more. In addition, the students also had the rare opportunity to watch real-time incident response of a fire on Interstate 5 at the Rosecrans Avenue off-ramp. Caltrans is always happy to host visitors at the Caltrans/California Highway Patrol state-of-the-art TMC, a model for the world! •

A "Toast" To The Toastmasters Club

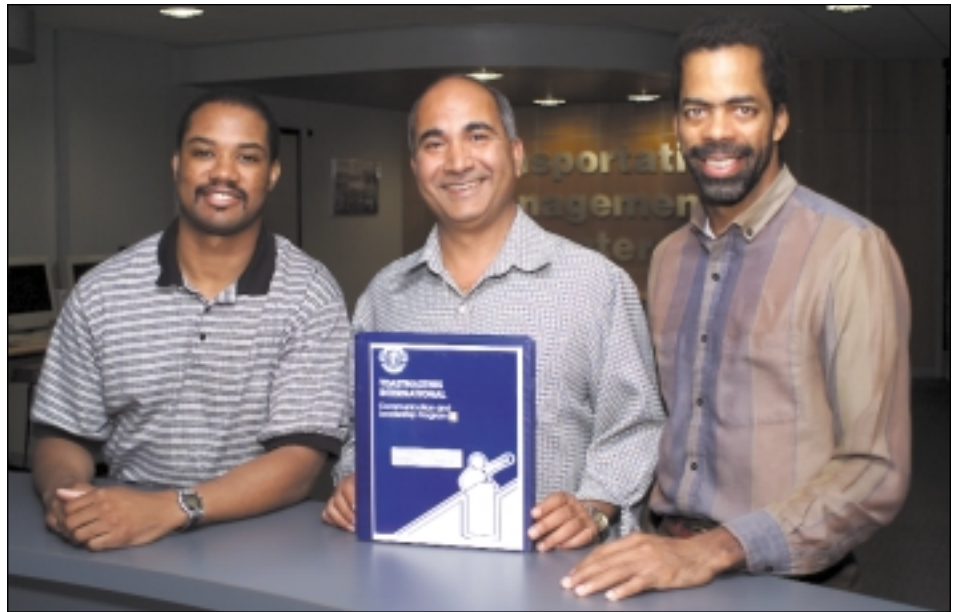
It has been said that most people fear public speaking. For those of you who may feel that way, have no fear – "Toastmasters" is here!

Anyone who wishes to improve their public speaking skills is encouraged to join Toastmasters, an international organization devoted to helping people communicate effectively and improve their skills in the area of public speaking. In a supportive environment, members meet weekly and offer each other encouragement, understanding and a lot of practice.

The Caltrans club is part of a Toastmasters' "area" consisting of four clubs: one from the Los Angeles Times; one from the City of Los Angeles; and two at Caltrans: one English and one Spanish-speaking. Sohan Bosra, Toastmasters' Area Governor, said, "I encourage everyone to improve their communications skills in a friendly environment by joining our club here at Caltrans." Every six months, competitions are held by area, then district, then region and on to an international competition.

The group of about 15 meet every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 461. Steve Holloway, Transportation Engineer, and this year's incoming Toastmasters' President, said, "Toastmasters offers a self-paced program designed to help a person develop their communications skills during weekly meetings which provide a forum to practice speaking. The program has really helped me become much more comfortable speaking in any setting. I hope anyone wishing to improve their public speaking skills will join our supportive club."

Everyone is welcome to be a guest at a club meeting. For additional information, please contact Marvin Davis, Toastmasters' Vice President, at (213) 897-8332. •



Toastmasters officers, left to right: Vice President Marvin Davis, Area Governor Sohan Bosra and President Steve Holloway.

District 7's Operational Plan: Staying Focused And Committed

District 7 submitted its important Operational Plan on July 9 outlining an amazing 337 active major State Program (in-house) projects for the current fiscal year, all in different stages. In short, the comprehensive plan not only defines all projects, but makes a commitment to deliver them on time and within budget. The projects, whether State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP); Governor's projects; or Capital M Projects are worked on under Capital Outlay Support. Raja Mitwasi, Acting Division Chief, Program and Project Management, said, "In addition to outlining projects, the plan offers a commitment to Headquarters and provides an important baseline with which to measure performance and project delivery. Every successful organization has a plan."

Keeping focused and staying committed to on-time and within-budget project delivery is paramount. According to Richard Chiang, Acting Office Chief, Capital Outlay Support Data Management, and Operational Plan Coordinator, "The key is working on the right project at the right time." In other

words, to work on a project on the schedule as planned." What's more, each District's resource allocation is based on their Operational Plan. Mitwasi added, "The plan ensures proper allocation and utilization of our vitally important resources."

According to Mitwasi, developing the Operational Plan was a team effort in cooperation and partnership between all Capital Outlay Support functional divisions. He said, "I would like to thank the functional divisions; everyone working in Capital Outlay Support; and Richard Chiang, Coordinator; for their combined efforts and contributions for the success of District 7's Operational Plan."

The plan's progress is measured on a quarterly basis. A follow-up/update is performed at the end of each quarter as a monitoring system for project delivery. When milestones have been completed, they are reflected on the Intranet Website. In order to gain a better understanding of the District's Operational Plan, all employees are encouraged to view the plan on the Caltrans Intranet website at: <http://10.56.20.59/horizon/OP/summary.cfm>. •

...RETIREE SPOTLIGHT...

PEGGY KERR

At 85, Tennis Is Still Her "Racket"

Ten years have come and gone since Peggy Kerr, former Caltrans Delineator, permanently hung up her slide rule. After serving tirelessly in Right of Way for over 37 years, Peggy finally called it quits in 1990 at the age of 75. She said, "I spent my entire career at Caltrans in the same office. And at the time of my retirement, I worked in Right of Way longer than anyone else ever did." Chances are she still holds that distinction today.

But Peggy never hung up her tennis racket. Still active today in the sport that she has loved and participated in

most of her life, Peggy, at age 85, will be competing in the "National Eighty-Fives," two tennis tournaments in Newport Beach this September geared specifically for players age 85 or older. She is an inspiration, to say the very least.

During her Caltrans years, Peggy would bring her trusty tennis racket to work and practice during lunch hour. Whether she found an out-of-the-way wall somewhere to practice solo (although no longer allowed, her favorite spot was the loading dock against the brick wall), or whether she met her brother,

John A. "Jack" Kerr, a tennis great in his own right, at Chavez Ravine near Dodger Stadium, Peggy always found the time to play. "My daddy always said I had good heels," Peggy said when asked about the longevity of her tennis game. "And our mother always told us, 'Always sing and smile and pray, and play some tennis every day,'" added Jack.

Obviously doing what their mother said paid off. Since retiring, in the last 10

years alone, Peggy made it to the finals in over 30 tennis tournaments. And last year she was a finalist in the Southern California Championship Sectionals at the Los Angeles Tennis Club where she "rubs tennis elbows" with the likes of tennis champion André Agassi. "André is very nice to me," Peggy said. And she beams when she explains that brother Jack has won in twice as many matches as she. While not that concerned about actually winning in her upcoming tournament in September, she is thrilled to still be a part of it all. And everyone who knows Peggy is thrilled with her, and for her.

Those who had the pleasure of working with Peggy during her years

at Caltrans say she always had an uplifting and energetic spirit on and off the tennis court. John Iwasaki, Chief, Office of Right of Way Engineering and former long-time co-worker said, "When talking to Peggy at work about the benefits of retirement, she would never let me finish and would quickly respond 'No, I'm not leaving. They

are going to have to carry me out of here.' But after she

decided to call it quits, she told me that it was just great – that retirement gave her more time to practice tennis and play in tournaments."

Never one to watch life pass her by, Peggy has been and remains an active participant. Active? Now there's an understatement! One can still detect her can-do attitude as she speaks of her tennis match. She said, "It's not important



Equal Opportunity Corner

Caltrans Disability Advisory Committee

By Carmen Roberts

The Equal Employment Office is currently recruiting new members and reclaiming former members to participate on the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC). The committee is under the leadership of Seyed Torabzadeh, Chairperson.

What is the DAC?

In compliance with California Government Code Section 19795(b), which requires each state agency to establish a DAC, the Department of Transportation actively supports a statewide Disability Advisory Council whose members are district DAC's. The State Personnel Board Disability Advisory Council in Sacramento provides guidance and direction through the Caltrans Office of Equal Opportunity. Most committees (DAC's) meet monthly; the statewide council convenes by video teleconference quarterly.

Purpose

The function of the DAC and its statewide member committees is to:

- Make recommendations about departmental policy, programs and practices affecting persons with disabilities.
- Promote education and training to increase sensitivity and awareness of issues facing persons with disabilities.
- Recognize special efforts and events that enhance opportunities for Caltrans employees with disabilities.
- Assist in Caltrans' compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Support the identification and resolution of all reasonable accommodation issues.
- Foster open and effective communication throughout the Department regarding issues facing individuals with disabilities.

In tennis attire, and with her trusty racket in hand, Peggy Kerr makes a recent visit to District 7.



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Students

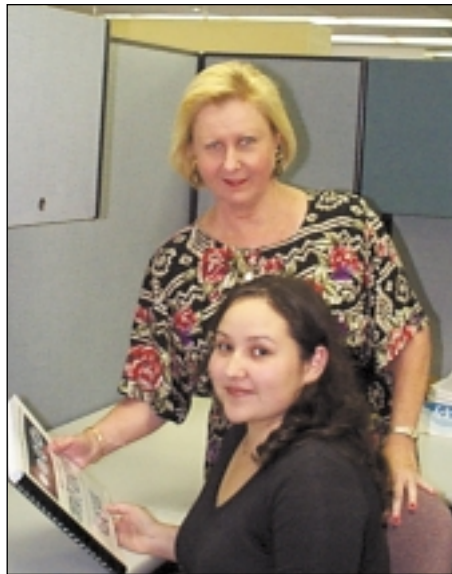
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the students solid work experience to show the real-world applications of the skills they are learning in school; are able to help them a bit with the costs of their education which may help them stay in school; and we are afforded an opportunity to get top students to help us. I am very proud of District 7's Student Assistant Program and, in particular, the outstanding job Suzie Torres has done in managing this program."

Two fine examples of current successful Student Assistants are Tim Romine, Project Development, Branch C; and Erika Gallo, Media Relations/Public Affairs. Romine came to Caltrans December 9, 1997 during his first year of college. Currently, while working at Caltrans Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, he attends Cal Poly Pomona studying civil engineering. Romine said, "I try to work as much as I can. I love working here and the nice people." Some of his duties include projects involving utilities, design, retaining walls and estimates. "Wherever I can help or assist the engineers, I do," he added.

Now in his junior year, Romine said that ever since he can remember he wanted a career in engineering even as a young boy. His interesting story of his beginnings at Caltrans started way before he became a Student Assistant. Years ago, his neighbor, friend and Caltrans Transportation Engineer, Safwat Salahieh, brought him for a visit to Caltrans and introduced him to the CAD system at the age of eleven. Romine said, "Safwat got me interested in Caltrans at a very young age." Early on Salahieh told Romine that as soon as he finished high school to check with Caltrans about becoming a Student Assistant. Romine said, "As soon as I was registered at college, I came right down to Caltrans. Soon thereafter, I was hired and I've been working here ever since."

Planning on graduating in two years with a degree in civil engineering, Romine hopes to continue his career at Caltrans as a Transportation Engineer. He said, "I love the field of transportation and am



Odemary Barrio, Student Assistant, Special Programs (seated), offers assistance to Suzie Torres, Manager, with one of her many projects.

very involved in it in college." Romine has taken transportation courses and worked closely with his professors. At the same time he holds the positions of recording secretary for the American Society of Transportation Engineers, as well as president of the Institute of Transportation Engineers Club at college. He recently received a special Certificate of Appreciation/Special Service Award in recognition of the long hours of dedicated work and for the many contributions made to successfully deliver the design of the new interchange at Highway 1 and Pleasant Valley Road in Ventura.

Romine's supervisor, Oscar Villacorte, Senior Transportation Engineer, said, "Tim is a model student and employee. He is enthusiastic, learns quickly and has contributed very much to the projects in my group. He is a great asset to the Caltrans organization and I trust that, after I retire in a few years, I will come back some day to visit and I will find Tim working here in a career in engineering."

Romine said that he really appreciates the guidance and work experiences he has received. He said, "I would like to thank all of my co-workers, especially those in Project Development Branch C and those in my squad for their help and guidance. Without their help I would not have the design experience that I have today." He also appreciates the direction he received from neighbor, and now co-

worker, Safwat Salahieh. Romine added, "I am grateful to be neighbors, friends and colleagues with Safwat. I thank him for his continued support and guidance throughout school and work."

Another example of a successful Student Assistant is Erika Gallo who just celebrated her second anniversary on July 13. She began her employment through the Summer Youth Employment Program in Media Relations/Public Affairs in July, 1998. Gallo heard about the program through her community involvement with public officials who introduced her to the Caltrans program. She was eventually hired as a Student Assistant on September 1, 1998. Her duties include assisting with special events; working on the computer; writing articles for publication; attending community fairs; and working closely with the public handling heavy telephone calls.

As far back as elementary school, Gallo was involved in student government. She was even recognized at her high school graduation with a plaque for completing over 500 hours of community service, and for leadership. Her other high school involvement included being a four-year member of the California Scholarship Federation and a member of student government. Her past volunteer activities included: working for Los Angeles Police Chief Willie Williams, Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard Parks, Mayor Richard Riordan and Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Hernandez. She also campaigned for Los Angeles City Council hopefuls Alvin Parra and Rosemarie Lopez, and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg. For four years during high school she held three seats in the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC): secretary, vice-president and president.

After receiving the four-year Leadership Scholarship from Mount St. Mary's College in 1997, Gallo wasted no time. She became a member of the Associated Student Body as junior president and senior president; became founder and president of the Spanish Club; is a member of Pi Theta Mu Service Sorority; is a peer advisor to 13 students; and represented Mount St. Mary's at the

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Students

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National Model of the United Nations in New York as a delegate for the Republic of Venezuela. And this year she placed on the Dean's List. Among her awards are: a Certificate of Appreciation for service to the Institute of Student Academic Enrichment Peer Advisement Program; a Certificate of Excellence from the Associated Student Body; and Mary's Day Recognition of Achievement for Academic Excellence.

This December, Gallo will be graduating from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles a semester early with a double major in Social Sciences with a Public

Administration emphasis; and Sociology with a minor in Spanish for International Relations. After graduation she plans to pursue a graduate degree in Public Administration. Gallo said, "I am very grateful for my work experiences as a Student Assistant. I want to thank Caltrans and my co-workers for providing me with great opportunities and expanding my knowledge of public service. Serving the public as an elected official is my number one career goal."

Irma Lopez, Associate Administrator and Gallo's supervisor, said, "It is a pleasure to work with Erika. She is dedicated to the job and to her studies. And she always has a smile for everyone."

Another outstanding example of excel-

lence is Student Assistant Odemary Barrios, Special Programs assistant. Special thanks to Barrios who, for 18 months, has assisted with the tremendous workload in Special Programs. Her contributions are numerous and she is another fine example of the efficient student workforce. And to all the capable students Caltrans is so fortunate to have on board: thank you all for your dedication, devotion and enthusiasm as you strive to reach your career goals at Caltrans.

It is plain to see that District 7 is fortunate indeed to have dynamic and beneficial students working toward rewarding careers in the field of transportation. The District is proud of all of its 80 shining examples of Caltrans Student Assistants – gaining quality Caltrans experience, providing a valuable workforce and paving the way for the future. •



California Transportation Foundation (CTF) scholarships have finally arrived at their intended destination. On Wednesday, July 12, 2000, a check for \$500 was delivered to Crenshaw High School and another to Roosevelt High School – the two schools "adopted" by District 7, which, for many years, have been the entities designated to receive employee donations in the form of academic scholarships. The scholarships will again be awarded to deserving graduating students in good standing who have expressed an interest in pursuing educational objectives which are akin to the mission and to the work performed by Caltrans. This year the awards are more meaningful because they have incorporated contributions to the U. Williams Memorial Fund, established in memory of Mr. Williams, a Caltrans staff attorney who passed away recently. Caltrans is delighted that the merging of the U. Williams funds with the CTF funds has increased the dollar amount of the valuable scholarships.

The students chosen were selected because they are pursuing a college education in the field of transportation; have maintained superior academic standing and because they have charted out career objectives for themselves in civil engineering or related fields of study.

District 7 CTF awards again play a role in promoting the career goals of local youth. This is an accomplishment we can all feel proud of! For additional information, please contact Gus Martin, at (213) 897-4298.

An update on L'Orangerie (Lai Lai) Crawford, track and field star and daughter of Terri Harrison, Transportation Engineering Technician, includes the good news that the athlete was recently selected a "Junior All American," one of only eight in the nation, at the Junior National Championship Track Meet in Texas. Needless to say her family and friends are all thrilled and very proud of her. Lai Lai says, "Thank you again to Caltrans for all your support." Congratulations, Lai Lai!

Disability Act

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Volunteers Needed

Employees with disabilities, or employees without disabilities who are sensitive to, interested in, and knowledgeable about issues relating to employees with disabilities, are encouraged to volunteer to serve on the DAC. Membership on the committee is open to all classifications of employees in each division of the Department.

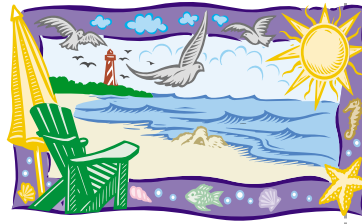
October is Disability Awareness Month and the DAC wants to take this opportunity for new members to help plan, suggest and give feedback on activities. If you are interested in participating on the DAC, please contact Seyed Torabzadeh, Chairperson at 7-0085 or Carmen Roberts, Equal Opportunity Office, at 7-8244. •

Peggy Kerr

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whether I win or lose. I already win because I can still play." Best wishes and continued success to Peggy Kerr, especially for this September's tennis match, and for being an inspiration to all. •

What's **Cookin'!** At **Caltrans**



SUMMER PEACH SQUARES

1-1/2 cups margarine	1 cup sugar
1/2 cup all-purpose flour	2/3 cup sugar
2 cups sliced fresh peaches	4 cups all-purpose flour
1-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon	

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cream together margarine and one cup sugar; add 4 cups all-purpose flour. Press half of mixture into a 13"X9" pan. Then, mix together peaches, 1/2 cup flour, 2/3 cup sugar and cinnamon; layer over crust. Sprinkle with remaining crust mixture over filling. Bake for 35-45 minutes. Cool and cut into squares or serve warm.

SUMMER STRAWBERRY GLAZED PIE

1/2 cup water	1 cup sugar
1 9-inch baked pastry shell	3-1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
Whipped cream, optional	5-6 cups fresh strawberries, washed and hulled

Mash two cups of the fresh strawberries; set aside. Mix sugar and cornstarch in saucepan. Stir in water and mashed strawberries. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture comes to a boil. Boil 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Cool. Fold remaining berries into cooled mixture. Pile all into baked pastry shell. Chill. Serve with whipped cream.

Inside **Seven**

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EDITOR **JEANNE BONFILIO**
MEDIA RELATIONS CHIEF **MARGIE TIRITILLI**
STAFF WRITERS **PAT REID**
..... **IVY ESTRADA**
GRAPHIC SERVICES **MONICA MURILLO**
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GRAY DAVIS
Governor

MARIA CONTRERAS-SWEET
Secretary - Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

JEFF MORALES
Director - California Department of Transportation



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